



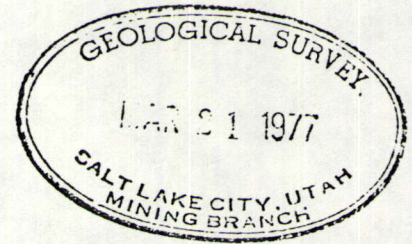
United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH
1426 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

In Reply Refer To

March 18, 1977

Allen L. Vance
Geological Survey
Office of the Area Mining Supervisor
Conservation Division
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138



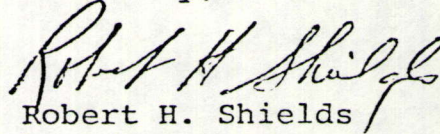
Dear Mr. Vance:

We appreciate your agency's March 3, 1977 request for assistance to assess the impact of American Gilsonite Company's proposals on Endangered Species. The fact that you recognized as a possible impact on a species is commendable.

Our assessment is in complete agreement with Mr. Heggen's, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and that is that the sighted peregrine falcons on oil shale tracts U-a and U-b were itinerant birds either feeding or migrating thru these tract areas. As you are aware- the oil shale areas are near the White River, which would provide feeding habitat for peregrines. However, the gilsonite mine proposal is several miles north of this river and occupies typical desert habitat. This area would not then attract peregrines as a feeding area in the same matter as the two tracts.

At any rate it is our opinion that the proposed action would not adversely affect the American peregrine falcons in the area.

Sincerely,


Robert H. Shields
Area Manager